

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board **(Draft)**
From: Nancy Selman
Date: October 3, 2005
Re: Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2005

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2005: 10/11, 11/8, 12/13.

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

1. Audubon – Jeff Hall of the Audubon Society showed the Advisory Board the exhibit paid for by the Fund and went through a listing of outreach activities conducted and curriculum developed by Audubon with a grant from Fund. Audubon would like to apply for a grant to continue its outreach efforts.
2. Minutes and Update
 - a. Steering Committee – the Governor’s office has set up a Steering Committee for the Fund composed of representatives from Purchasing, Department of Administration, Facilities Management, and the Governors Office.
 - b. Update – typo – Point Judith.
3. Microhydro – Microhydro will be added to the open PV and wind program. It was discussed and decided that money should not be spent on feasibility studies for very small systems, but that the dollars should be spent directly on the system installation.
4. Energetech – Cynthia Rudge, Betsy MacMillan, and Bill Day, CFO, presented an update on the Port Judith and Port Kembla Projects and a request for a second round of grant funding:
 - a. Port Kembla (PK), Australia update - Energetech chose the initial Australian site because of its industrial nature, not necessarily the wave climate, which is not superior to other locations in the area. The PK Project is near shore – 200 meters off a breakwater. The device is tension moored and the technology is an oscillating water column which drives a turbine by pressurizing the air in a chamber in which the turbine is located. The dimensions of the device are 118 ft wide by 39 feet high; and the installed power capacity is 500 kW. The unit was constructed in Bataan, Indonesia as Australia has no major shipbuilding facilities, and towed to the PK site. The project was installed and moored, but after 24 hours it became apparent that the moorings were not acting as planned and the unit was taken off the mooring and towed to shore. The unit will be redeployed at end of September 2005 and in order to validate the technology. There is currently a severe water crisis in Australia – desalination technology will be installed on device.
 - b. There is good interest in the US developing around ocean technologies:
 - i. Study by EPRI in 2004 of ocean wave technologies
 - ii. Formation of lobby group – Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition - to simplify the regulatory process for ocean energy
 - iii. DOE workshop on Ocean Energy in October, 2005. The hydropower program money may be diverted to ocean energy.
 - iv. Strong interest from Hawaii in developing the ocean resource.
 - c. Point Judith Project:
 - i. Regulatory: The FERC Declaration of Intent (DI) was submitted and the public comment period has ended. Only one entity submitted comments. A very positive preliminary meeting was held with the RI CRMC to present environmental study plan, during which the CRMC agreed that the study plan Energetech has devised is acceptable to the CRMC. The Narragansett firm ASA will lead the environmental study process for

CRMS. RI was chosen because of the amenable process among the regulatory bodies managed by the CRMC. FERC asserted jurisdiction but the purpose of the DI is to request FERC to waive jurisdiction. Lobby group in DC is requesting that FERC have a different view toward short term, small demonstration projects.

- ii. Funding to date: The MA Trust has provided funding for environmental studies and interconnection (\$650,000.) CT has given about \$200,000 that has been directed to the project. RI has funded a wave resource assessment and ocean floor analysis – \$100,000 from Fund went to URI to do wave resource and sea bed analysis.
- iii. Design option analysis: Energetech is reviewing various design options for Point Judith.
 - 1. Develop a new designed unit with all possible upgrades resulting from PK demonstration;
 - 2. Continue with development of current design;
 - 3. Use the existing Port Kembla unit, transport the system structure and moor it to the ocean floor at Point Judith with a site-specific foundation system;

Most likely option now is to bring over the turbine generator (mechanical/electrical) unit and build the parabolic wave collector unit in the US.

- d. Request for Funding for Additional URI Studies: Phase 1 of the URI studies which has been completed (expenditure of approximately \$100,000) involved a wave climate study and a sub-bottom survey to determine where the bedrock is located.
 - i. Additional request: \$60,000
 - 1. \$15k of \$25k for vibracore survey
 - 2. \$25k for a wave current meter – URI would own equipment
 - 3. Equipment and monitoring labor \$20,000
 - ii. In the next few months – an additional \$60,000 - \$75,000 for additional studies and regulatory work.
 - e. Cost Benefit – Energetech stressed that currently the RI contribution is about 40% of MA contribution, and that the Company's in-kind contribution has been all of its human resources (grant money has not paid the developer's and its staff's salaries. In addition, all the RI Fund money is going to URI and other RI entities. The benefits to RI are demonstrating an ocean renewable energy technology, taking the Project through the permitting process, and economic development for RI firms and URI, current and hopefully more in the future.
 - f. The Advisory Board requested a better explanation of the current and next funding request, as well as a better breakdown of the design and construction budget sources and uses of funding. The decision to fund the current request was deferred until the October 2005 meeting.
- 5. Slater Center – Ron Unterman made a presentation introducing the Slater Center to the Board and discussing how the Fund and the Slater Center might work together to help early stage Rhode Island companies in the renewable energy sector. The powerpoint presentation is available upon request.
 - 6. RES – Bob Grace provided an update on the RES negotiated rulemaking. The Negotiating Committee had just submitted their final recommendations to the PUC and are available for review.
 - 7. C&I On-Site Feasibility Study Draft RFP – Changes and additions to the document were discussed.

Decisions:

1. Microhydro – Microhydro will be added to the Open PV and small wind program.
2. Energetech – An updated request from Energetech will be presented at the October 2005 Advisory Board meeting.

Actions:

1. Microhydro – Add microhydro to the Open PV and Small Wind Program.
2. Energetech – Request an updated proposal which shows the amount being requested currently, in the coming months, and for design, construction. Developer must show an estimate of sources and uses in the design/construction phase. If a budget for legal expenses is requested, it must be the minimum required for the regulatory process (i.e., required legal representation at the open hearings, etc.)
3. Finalize C&I Onsite Feasibility Study RFP.

Attendance:

Chew, Bob
Condon, Pat
Day, Bill
Grace, Bob
Hall, Jeff
Hill, Michael
Jacobson, David
Lueker, Bill
MacMillan, Betsy
McClanaghan, Janice
Rose, Vin
Rudge, Cynthia
Selman, Nancy
Stearns, Dave
Stephens, Erich
Teichert, Kurt
Unterman, Ron
Vild, Bruce
Warfel, Chris
Wilhite, Chris